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ATTENTION:YMP

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FROM: Jill Sheinberg

MESSAGE:

I am writing to request that the comment period for review of the Yucca Mountain proposal be extended well beyond the current September 20th deadline. The public is being asked to comment on a recommendation that hinges on rules that the DOE has yet to codify. There is no guarantee that the finalized guidelines will be the same as those proposed, so the basis of the recommendation is question. In actuality, there are codified existing site suitability guidelines that would, if the Secretary of Energy were to make a recommendation today, form the only legal basis for site suitability in the recommendation. These existing guidelines would surely disqualify Yucca Mountain. Compounding this problem, these proposed guidelines hinge upon the EPA Yucca Mountain exposure standards that are currently in litigation. If the courts throw out the EPA standards then the proposed site suitability guidelines are also no good.

The Department of Energy should have all of the information that forms the basis of the recommendation in a complete package available to the public well in advance of any public process in order to allow people in Nevada and out of Nevada to review all of the necessary information. The public should be privy to all of the information that will go to the President in the statutory required Site Recommendation Report. Due to the technical

nature of the subject matter, at least six months should allowed here for review of all documents. The issues involved in establishing a nuclear waste site are far too important to limit the ability of the public to have meaningful input.

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